

Endless Experiences

My experience on the board thus far has been nothing but wonderful. It has been quite the ride and experience since first being elected onto the board. My first couple of experiences being on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board started with working in the ring at the Junior National Hereford Expo. I came to find out very quickly how exhausted feet will become. Although I already have some minor problems with my feet, it is very important to have comfortable boots to wear. Board members end up walking miles in such a short space. Little did I know that working the ring was such a small part of being on the NJHA board.



Brooke Hinojosa

As the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) came to an end, it was time to experience my first real meeting with the board. Our meeting was through a conference call and lasted about an hour. Now, I am not a big fan of multiple

people on one phone call at time, but this was such an awesome experience to me. When there are more than 12 people on one phone call, it can become very jumbled and confusing. I was so impressed with all of the business we covered in such a short amount of time. In this hour conference call, we made our finishing details on the Faces of Leadership conference. After this call, I was sure that everything would come together to put on a very successful conference.

Now that we had covered all the business about Faces of Leadership, it was finally time to head to West Texas as an official NJHA board director. I never realized how much of the event is put on strictly by the junior board. It was such an amazing sight to see how much each individual contributes to make the convention run so smoothly. The first day was our first real time to “kick back” as a board and to get to know one another on a more personal level rather than just in the meeting room.

After facing some fears on the zip line, we had our first “in-person” meeting. I was a little scared and nervous since I was such a newbie. Once the meeting had started, I felt right at home. I was no longer afraid to give my opinion or my ideas on things. This meeting lasted about five hours, full of debate and important business. Although I was not prepared for the five-hour meeting,

this is when I knew I had made the right choice to run for the junior board. I have always wondered how each and every board member gets the ability to impact so many peoples’ lives. It had finally dawned on me — this is when.

The board has been very busy with meetings and conference calls as well as trips. I was given the opportunity to visit California for my first time through the NJHA. I would not trade this experience for anything. Part of the board made the trek to California for The Harvest II, a fundraiser for Hereford youth. This was, without a doubt, a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We made the best of Cali as we toured some of the best wine country and history it had to offer. It was such an amazing opportunity to see \$2 million generated for the youth involved in the Hereford industry. I was very sad when we had to leave such beautiful country and to come back to reality with life.

Our most recent endeavor was our NJHA board orientation. This was once again an amazing opportunity to see what the adult board does as well as what happens behind the scenes of such a wonderful industry. We finished the weekend with touring and gathering a little more information on how everything is produced within the American Hereford Association, as well as one last meeting. Meetings had never been quite my thing, but now that I have encountered so many opportunities through being elected onto the NJHA board, they have become part of my life. I am so thankful to be serving you on the NJHA board and truly look forward to the next three years full of meetings, opportunities and once-in-a-lifetime experiences. **HW**

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